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School of Earth Sciences
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305
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Dr. Lake H. Barrett, Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Barrett:

This is in reply to your letter of 28 August requesting my comments on a possible recommendation to the President that Yucca Mountain be developed to serve as our repository for spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste.

Let me say to begin with that I strongly favor such a recommendation. I speak as one who has no background in actually working at Yucca Mountain, but who is well acquainted with the scientific literature on Yucca Mountain and who has worked on several governmental committees concerned with the general problem of disposing of nuclear waste.

It seems to me that scientific documents produced by the Department of Energy, including the Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation, provide a more than adequate basis for showing that the Yucca Mountain site is suitable for development of a repository. I think the Secretary will almost certainly find that scientific analysis shows that the Yucca Mountain site is likely to meet applicable radiation protection standards established by the EPA and the NRC, and therefore should proceed to recommend the site to the President. And I don't know of any reasons why the President should not conclude that the Yucca Mountain site is well qualified for the preparation and submission of a construction license.

These conclusions are all favorable to development of the site. I could, of course, develop arguments on the other side and then show how these arguments can be defeated, but this would be a long discussion with much scientific detail. If you need this sort of prolonged discussion I'll be glad to try to supply it, but I think for present purposes this will be enough. Let me know if you need more.

Sincerely yours,

Konrad B. Krauskopf

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